Electrosurgery and argon plasma coagulation in endoscopy: An art and science

Electrosurgery is used worldwide in the majority of surgical and endoscopic gastrointestinal (GI) procedures. Along with the discovery of anesthesia and antibiotics, electrosurgery is probably one of the more important advantages of modern surgery in terms of preserving life and health. Using electrosurgery is both an art and a science. Yet, most healthcare professionals have not had any formalized education on the principles of electrosurgery and the safe practices required for positive clinical outcomes and patient safety. This continuing education activity reviews the basic properties of electricity and the principles of electrosurgery, cutting versus coagulation and argon plasma coagulation. Influencing variables, clinical applications and potential complications of these modalities will also be discussed.

Biography

Kristie Briggs has received her ADN from Motlow State Community in Tullahoma, TN in 1999 and BSN from Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, TN in 2007. She is currently the Manager of Clinical Education for Erbe USA Inc., USA. She has worked as an Infection Control Coordinator and Chief Nursing Officer. She had published several continuing education booklets on Electrosurgery. She has provided many lectures to local/regional SGNA meetings around the country and also presented at the National SGNA.

kristie.briggs@erbe-usa.com